

CLAIMS

- 5 1. Method for testing an appliance, **characterized in** that an audio port of the appliance is used as an interface for testing of the appliance.
- 10 2. Method according to claim 1, **characterized in** that digital data for testing are serially transmitted to the appliance, which data are modulated onto a carrier frequency having a frequency above 20 kHz, in particular having a carrier frequency in the frequency range of 100 kHz - 20 MHz.
- 15 3. Method according to claim 1, **characterized in** that stereo output ports of the appliance are used for testing, one port for a transmission of digital signals to the appliance, and one port for a transmission of digital signals from the appliance.
- 20 4. Method according to claim 2, **characterized in** that an oscillator of the appliance is used for the generation of a carrier frequency, and in that the digital signals are modulated onto the carrier frequency by an on/off switching mode.
- 25 5. Method according to claim 1, **characterized in** that a test adapter is used for testing, which comprises
 - 30 a first port for a connection to an audio port of the appliance,
 - a second port for a connection to a control computer, and
 - an oscillator for modulating digital signals from the control computer onto a carrier frequency having a frequency above 20KHz.
- 35 6. Method according to claim 1, comprising the steps of

a) after powering on the appliance, the appliance provides a carrier signal to a first audio output of the appliance,
b) the appliance checks via a detector whether the carrier signal is looped back to a second audio port,

5 c) if no carrier signal is detected by the detector, the carrier signal is switched off and the appliance goes into a normal operating mode,

d) if the carrier signal is detected by the detector, the appliance goes into a test mode for an operation with a
10 control computer.

7. Method according to claim 6, **characterized in** that in case the carrier frequency is looped back to the second audio port, the appliance bypasses a DC blocking capacitor for
15 providing a supply voltage to a test adapter, the supply voltage being used by the test adapter for opening the loop between the two audio ports on the interface board of the test adapter.

20 8. Appliance comprising an audio port and having a test mode, which is controlled by an external control computer, **characterized in** that the audio port is useable for a transmission of test signals to or from the control computer.

25 9. Appliance according to claim 8, **characterized in** that the appliance comprises an oscillator and a modulator for generating a modulated carrier signal for a transmission of digital test signals via the audio port.

30 10. Appliance according to claim 8, **characterized in** that the appliance comprises low-pass and high-pass filters for combining test signals and analog audio signals and/or for separating test signals and analog audio signals.

11. Appliance according to claim 8, **characterized in** that the appliance comprises a demodulator and a test adapter presence detector for detecting a test adapter being coupled to an audio port of the appliance.

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12. Appliance according to claim 8, **characterized in** that the appliance comprises two audio output ports for a stereo output signal, and that one output port is usable for a transmission of serial digital signals and the other output port is usable for a reception of serial digital signals.

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13. Appliance according to claim 8, **characterized in** that an audio port is used for powering circuits of a test adapter being coupled to the appliance.

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14. Method for testing an appliance comprising audio ports, comprising the steps of

using at least one of said audio ports as an interface for testing of said appliance,

using digital data signals for testing of said appliance, and

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transmitting said digital data signals serially via said audio port to said appliance, by modulating the data onto a carrier frequency having a frequency above 20 kHz.

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15. Method according to claim 14, comprising the steps of using stereo output ports of said appliance for said testing, using a first one of said stereo output ports for a transmission of digital signals to the appliance, and a second one for a transmission of digital signals from the appliance.

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16. Method according to claim 14, comprising the step of using an oscillator of the appliance for the generation of said carrier frequency, and modulating said digital data

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signals onto said carrier frequency by an on/off switching mode.